# CAREERS: EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES

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#### We are the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering

(NMNWSE). It is a nonprofit association of women who are scientists, engineers, educators, parents, community leaders, and professionals in business, government, and industry. The primary mission of NMNWSE is to encourage women to seek careers in science, engineering, and other nontraditional areas.

Each spring the NMNWSE holds conferences around New Mexico to introduce young women (junior high and high school age) to nontraditional careers. These conferences are called "Expanding Your Horizons," and they were originally conceived by and are licensed through the Math/Science Network (the Math Science Network is coordinated through Mills College and the Lawrence Hall of Science in California, http://www.expandingyourhorizons.org). During the Expanding Your Horizons conference young women are given the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities and meet successful women who are in nontraditional careers.

Why this book? What do you want to be when you grow up? Chances are when children answer this question their responses are limited to the careers of the people around them. We want to expand the possible answers to this question by introducing young women to all of the women who contributed to this book. Each author has provided insights into her own career, and the enthusiasm she feels comes through in each description. We hope that this book will spark the interest in all our readers, but particularly those for whom this was written - young women exploring their possibilities.

Thank you to all the authors who dedicated their time and efforts to see that the women that come after them have a headstart at a fulfilling career.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Ann Mauzy for using her technical writing skills in the editing of this book, to Vicky Ide for organizing all the material, publishing it, and getting the early editions printed, and to Jody Shepard for updating the current edition.

Kelly Bitner, President of NMNWSE, 1998

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## **Table of Contents**

Archæology  Cynthia Ann Bettison	1
Architecture	3
Toni Seidel	
Astronomy/Astrophysics/Space Science  Joyce Ann Guzik	5
Biology <i>Melissa Siders</i>	7
Business Management  Linda McEwen	9
Chemistry Betty Harris and Darleane Hoffman	10
Computer Science/Engineering  Denise George and Nancy Martin	12
Dentistry Gail Ray and Sherilyn Azvedeo	13
Ecology  Deborah Ulinski Potter and Diane Dudzinski	14
Engineering  Kim Dalton Linder, Donna Cowell Senft, and Delores Etter	15
Engineering and Science Laboratory Technician  Catherine A. Hensley and Marcia H. Fuerschbach	19
Environmental Science  Kelly Bitner	21
Field Service Technology  Christy Rixman	23
Geology  Marguerite Rodriguez and Georgianna E. Peña-Kues	25
Health Physics  J. Margo Clark	28
Hydrology  Martha A. Hayes	30
Investment Analysis/Brokerage  Linda Kay Thorne	31
Law Morrison Bennett and Pamela Minzner	32
Materials Science  Deniece Korzekwa	34
Mathematics  Elizabeth J. Kelly and Barbara G. Epstein	35
Medical Technology  Judy Hendricks and Pat Olson	37
Medicine	39
Betty A. Hagman  Oceanography  Lori Carv-Kothera and Teresa Greely	41
LOUI COUVENUME LA MILLA LE LEMA CHEERV	

### **Table of Contents (***Continued...*)

Patent Agent	44
Morrison Bennett	
Pharmacy	46
Barbara Wood	4.0
Physician Assistant  M'Lou B. Stevens	48
Psychology  Amy Anderson, Tom Locke, and Therese Elizabeth Goetz	50
·	50
Physics ———————————————————————————————————	52
	54
Statistician Katherine Campbell	34
Technical Communication	56
Peggy Durbin	30
	58
Toxicology  Melecita Archuleta	38
	<b>60</b>
Veterinary Science	60
	(2)
Selecting an Occupation  Joanne M. Wambeke and Barbara Solari	62
	(2
Why Take High School Mathematics?	63
Education Options After High School and College	64
Patricia Luna and Nancy Martin	01
Think About College Now!	64
Tony Oviedo	0.
Paying for Your Education	70
Yohanna Patrice Wiuff and Jane Bennett	, 0
How to Have a Successful Job Interview	72
Joanne M. Wambeke and Barbara Solari	
You Need a Mentor	74
Mary. V. Bochmann	
Networking	75
Mary. V. Bochmann	
Cover Letters	75
Joanne M. Wambeke	
Resumes  Joanne M. Wambeke and Sherry K. Reisfeld	76
Stress Management  Amy Anderson	79
	81
You Need to be Assertive  Amy Anderson	01
Sexual Stereotyping and Sexual Prejudice  Elaine Gorham-Bergeron	82
Combining Marriage, Family and Career  Caroline (Cass) Mason	84
	0.5
Getting a Summer Job  Mary V. Bochmann	85